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INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
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APPROVED BY: AF:GEMOOSE

AF/E:DSHINN

AF/C:KAISTON (INFO)

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TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166410

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PINS, MOPS, UN UG, RW, FR  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ON FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR  
RWANDA; RPF WILL NEITHER RESIST NOR ENDORSE THE FRENCH  
EFFORT

REF: STATE 164454

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE MET WITH PRESIDENT MUSEVENI TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 21, IN A FOLLOW UP TO THEIR CONVERSATION UPON MUSEVENI'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON JUNE 18 (REFTEL). MUSEVENI SAID HE HAD NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN SPEAKING WITH THE RPF'S KAGAME ABOUT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE ON RWANDA, BUT PROMISED TO KEEP TRYING DURING THE COURSE OF JUNE 21. HE QUESTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF A FRENCH INTERVENTION (AS HE DID IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS ON JUNE 20), BUT TOLD A/S MOOSE THAT HE WOULD TRY TO DISSUADE THE RPF FROM UNDERMINING THE FRENCH EFFORT. MUSEVENI'S FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED DEPARTMENT LATER ON JUNE 21 TO REPORT THAT KAGAME HAS TOLD THE GOU THAT THE RPF WILL NOT RESIST A UN-BACKED FRENCH HUMANITARIAN EFFORT; THE RPF WILL NEITHER PUBLICLY ENDORSE NOR PUBLICLY REJECT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

3. A/S MOOSE MET WITH PRESIDENT MUSEVENI AT THE UGANDAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE FOR 30 MINUTES ON JUNE 21. MOOSE WAS  
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ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS CARSON AND SHINN AND UGANDA DESKOFF. MUSEVENI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SSEMOGERERE, MFA PERMSEC KATSIGAZI, AND AMBASSADOR KATENTA, APULI.

4. A/S MOOSE NOTED THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS FOR A FOLLOW-UP TO HIS EARLIER REQUEST THAT MUSEVENI CONTACT THE RPF TO URGE COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH INITIATIVE ON RWANDA. MUSEVENI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH KAGAME DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. HE HAD HOWEVER SPOKEN WITH "ONE OF OUR MINISTERS" IN KAMPALA AND ASKED THAT A MESSAGE SUPPORTING THE FRENCH EFFORT BE PASSED TO KAGAME. HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A READOUT.

5. A/S MOOSE STRESSED TO MUSEVENI THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THE RPF ON BOARD WITH THE FRENCH EFFORT. WE WERE DISTURBED BY REPORTS THAT THE RPF REFUSED TO MEET WITH FRANCE'S FORMER AMBASSADOR TO RWANDA, WHO HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO KAMPALA TO MEET WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES. DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE RPF IS ESSENTIAL. THE U.S. HOPED THAT MUSEVENI WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO REACH KAGAME WITH THIS MESSAGE.

6. AS HE DID IN A MEETING WITH THE PRESS ON JUNE 20,

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MUSEVENI EXPRESSED HESITATION ABOUT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. WHY WERE THE FRENCH SO ANXIOUS TO GO IN? THE FRENCH ROLE IN RWANDA HAS BEEN "VERY DIRTY" -- THEY CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO DO GOOD. CAN'T ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY BE PERSUADED TO PLAY THE ROLE PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH?

7. A/S MOOSE RESPONDED THAT, IN FACT, THE FRENCH WERE THE  
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ONLY COUNTRY PREPARED TO LEAD A "HUMANITARIAN BRIDGE OPERATION" UNTIL AN EXPANDED UN FORCE IS ON THE GROUND. THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR DEBATE JUNE 21 STRESSED THAT THE FRENCH PLAN WAS CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS RWANDA RESOLUTIONS AND WAS VERY EXPLICIT IN DESIGNATING THE FRENCH EFFORT AS A SHORT-TERM MEASURE TO HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS UNTIL A UN FORCE IS IN PLACE. THERE WOULD BE NO/NO POLITICAL COMPONENT REFLECTED IN THE UN RESOLUTION. THE USG BELIEVES THAT THIS EFFORT MUST BE SUPPORTED IN THE INTEREST OF PREVENTING MORE DEATHS AMONG "HOSTAGE POPULATIONS" IN RWANDA. BUT NONE OF THIS WILL WORK IF THE RPF REMAINS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED.

8. MUSEVENI DISCUSSED HIS CONCERN THAT A FRENCH INTERVENTION MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE HARD-LINE HUTUS RESPONSIBLE FOR MASS KILLINGS TO BE PART OF AN EVENTUAL POLITICAL SOLUTION IN RWANDA. A/S MOOSE SAID THAT THE U.S. AGREED STRONGLY THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLINGS HAD NO PLACE IN A FUTURE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. BUT WE WERE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE UN RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FRENCH EFFORT WAS STRICTLY FOCUSED ONLY ON HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR POPULATIONS IN DANGER, NOT A POLITICAL PROCESS. "IF WE HESITATE NOW TO SORT OUT THE POLITICS, MANY MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE," HE SAID. MOOSE NOTED THAT WE ALSO HAD TO CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP AN INCREASINGLY VOLATILE BURUNDI FROM ERUPTING INTO VIOLENCE. OUR POSITION WAS THAT THE FRENCH PLAN FOR RWANDA WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A CALMING OF TENSION IN BURUNDI.

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9. THE MEETING ENDED WITH MUSEVENI PROMISING TO CONTINUE HIS ATTEMPTS TO REACH KAGAME THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF JUNE 21.

10. ADDENDUM: LATER ON JUNE 21, UGANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAUL SSEMOGERERE (A MEMBER OF MUSEVENI'S DELEGATION) CALLED DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THAT THE GOU HAD RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING FEEDBACK FROM KAGAME ON THE FRENCH INITIATIVE: THE RPF WILL NOT RESIST THE FRENCH INITIATIVE AS LONG AS IT IS BACKED BY A UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND IS DEFINED AS STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN. THE RPF DOES NOT INTEND TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE FRENCH EFFORT. RPF RESERVATIONS ARE SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO PREVENT THEM FROM PUBLICLY ENDORSING THE FRENCH INITIATIVE, BUT NEITHER WILL THEY ISSUE A PUBLIC REJECTION. END NOTE

11. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. TALBOTT

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